



Smallpox Brief: March 7, 2003

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

**Topic: CALIFORNIA CONTINUES TO SHIP SMALLPOX
VACCINE TO LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS**

As part of its ongoing effort to protect the public from the potential threat of smallpox being used as a weapon of terror, the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) this week shipped 1,800 doses of smallpox vaccine to 13 local health departments throughout the state (please see attached list). Following last week's initial shipment, a total of 8,200 doses of smallpox vaccine have now been shipped to 48 local health departments statewide.

Smallpox vaccine has been shipped to those local health departments whose vaccination plans were approved by CDHS and who have indicated their readiness to receive the vaccine. Local health departments will vaccinate healthcare workers who volunteer to be members of smallpox response teams. These teams will be responsible for providing medical care to any individuals who are exposed to smallpox, conducting disease investigation and vaccinating additional health care workers in the event of a smallpox outbreak.

"While the risk of a smallpox outbreak is low, California is making great progress in its efforts to protect the public from any potential outbreak of this deadly disease," said State Health Director Diana M. Bontá, R.N., Dr.P.H. "The California Department of Health Services is fully committed to supporting local health departments as they move forward with their vaccination efforts."

California requested and received a total of 10,000 doses of smallpox vaccine from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Smallpox vaccinations will be offered to healthcare workers on a strictly voluntary basis. CDHS has conducted training sessions throughout the state with vaccinators and healthcare workers to educate them about the smallpox virus as well as the smallpox vaccine and its associated health risks. Vaccination is not recommended for the general public at this time.

For more information about smallpox in English and Spanish, please visit <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/smallpox>, or call the Governor's Office of Emergency Services Safety Information and Referral Line at (800) 550-5234.

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Smallpox Vaccine Shipments to Local Health Departments

Health Department	Number of Vaccine Doses Shipped
1. Butte	100
2. Calaveras	100
3. Imperial	200
4. Marin	100
5. Mendocino	100
6. Sacramento	100
7. San Francisco	300
8. San Joaquin	100
9. Siskiyou	100
10. Solano	200
11. Stanislaus	200
12. Tehama	100
13. Tulare	100

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